No. 27

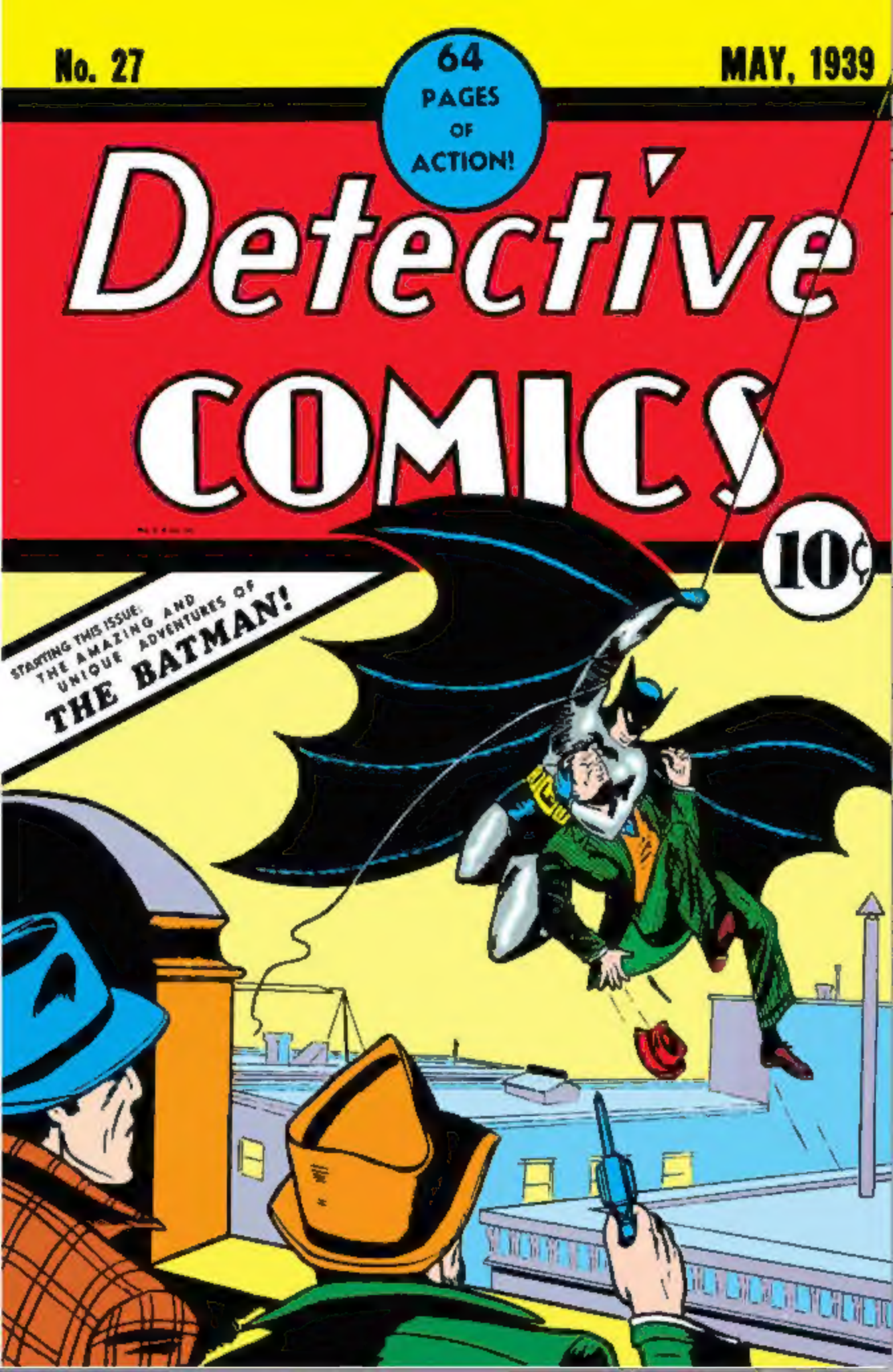
64 PAGES OF ACTION!

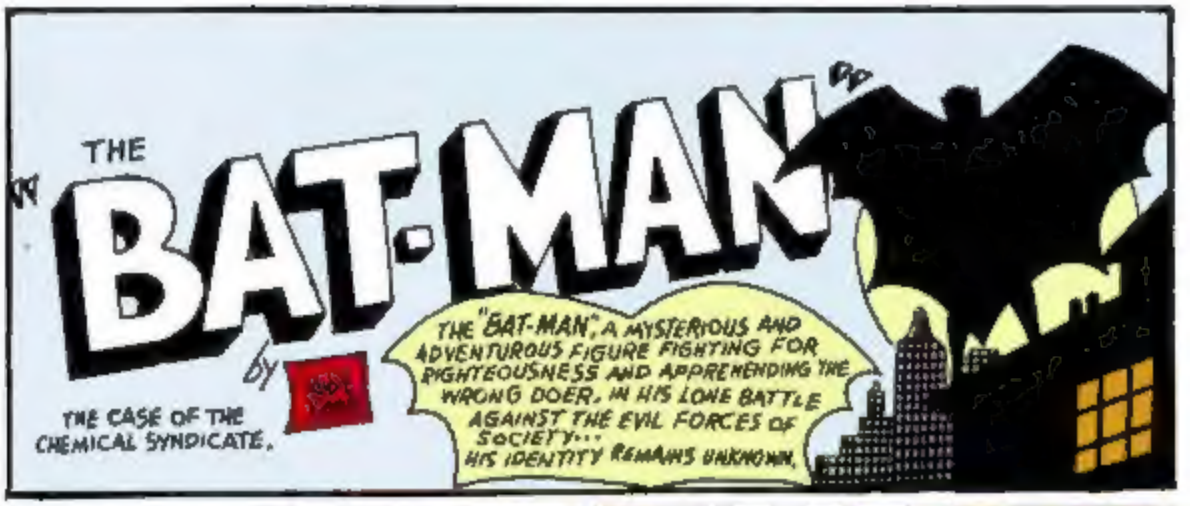
MAY, 1939

Detective COMICS

10¢

STARTING THIS ISSUE: THE AMAZING AND UNIQUE ADVENTURES OF THE BATMAN!

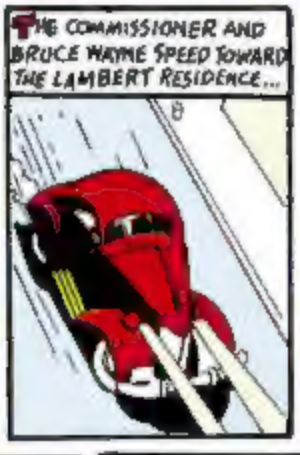



THE
"BAT-MAN"
by
THE CASE OF THE CHEMICAL SYNDICATE.
THE "BAT-MAN", A MYSTERIOUS AND ADVENTUROUS FIGURE FIGHTING FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS AND APPREHENDING THE WRONG DOER. IN HIS LONE BATTLE AGAINST THE EVIL FORCES OF SOCIETY... HIS IDENTITY REMAINS UNKNOWN.

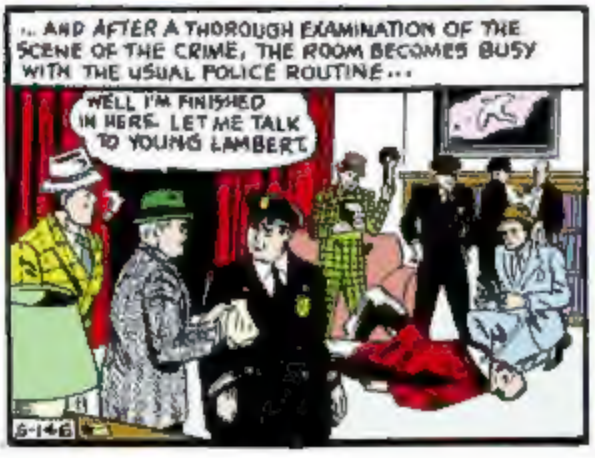
THE HOME OF COMMISSIONER GORDON, WHO AT THE MOMENT IS ENTERTAINING HIS YOUNG SOCIALITE FRIEND, BRUCE WAYNE.
WELL, COMMISSIONER, ANYTHING EXCITING HAPPENING THESE DAYS?
-NO-O- EXCEPT THIS FELLOW THEY CALL THE "BAT-MAN" PUZZLES ME!

HELLO... WHAT'S THAT? LAMBERT, THE CHEMICAL KING... STABBED TO DEATH? HIS SON'S FINGER PRINTS ON THE KNIFE?... I'LL BE RIGHT OVER!

--TALK ABOUT SOMETHING EXCITING... OLD LAMBERT HAS BEEN MURDERED AT HIS MANSION... I'M GOING THERE NOW. LIKE TO COME ALONG?
OH WELL, NOTHING ELSE TO DO, MIGHT AS WELL.


THE COMMISSIONER AND BRUCE WAYNE SPEED TOWARD THE LAMBERT RESIDENCE...

HELLO, SERGEANT, EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL?
YES SIR. WE'VE GOT YOUNG LAMBERT IN THE BACK ROOM.


... AND AFTER A THOROUGH EXAMINATION OF THE SCENE OF THE CRIME, THE ROOM BECOMES BUSY WITH THE USUAL POLICE ROUTINE...
WELL I'M FINISHED IN HERE. LET ME TALK TO YOUNG LAMBERT.
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HELLO, LAMBERT. THEY SAY YOU KILLED YOUR FATHER!
I DIDN'T DO IT.' COMMISSIONER, BELIEVE ME, I DIDN'T DO IT!!!

CALM YOURSELF, MY BOY, AND TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT!
...WELL SIR... TONIGHT I CAME HOME EARLY AND AS I WAS PASSING THE LIBRARY I HEARD A GROAN... I RUSHED IN AND THERE WAS MY FATHER LYING ON THE FLOOR, WITH A KNIFE IN HIM!
...AND AS I RUSHED IN, I GOT THE IMPRESSION OF SOMETHING LEAPING OUT OF THE WINDOW... I ALSO NOTICED THAT FATHER'S SAFE WAS OPENED...
...I PULLED THE KNIFE OUT OF MY FATHER'S BODY AND TURNED HIM TOWARD ME JUST IN TIME TO HEAR HIM SAY...
...CONTRACT... CONTRACT... OHHHH!
...AND THEN HE DIED. THAT'S HOW I GOT MY FINGER PRINTS ON THE KNIFE... THAT'S THE TRUTH, COMMISSIONER!
HMM! DID YOUR DAD HAVE ANY ENEMIES OR PEOPLE WHO HAD AN INTEREST IN HIS BUSINESS ACTIVITIES?
...NOT THAT I KNOW OF, EXCEPT HIS THREE FORMER BUSINESS PARTNERS... LET'S SEE, THEY WERE STEVEN CRANE, PAUL ROGERS AND ALFRED STRYKER
COMMISSIONER, THERE'S A MAN NAMED STEVE CRANE WHO WANTS TO SPEAK TO OLD LAMBERT... WHEN I TOLD HIM THAT OLD LAMBERT WAS MURDERED HE GOT VERY EXCITED AND WANTED TO SPEAK TO YOU!
THIS IS COMMISSIONER GORDON. WHAT'S THE TROUBLE?
YESTERDAY, MR. LAMBERT CALLED AND TOLD ME HE RECEIVED AN ANONYMOUS THREAT ON HIS LIFE... TODAY I RECEIVED THE SAME... THAT'S WHY I CALLED UP... AND I'M AFRAID I'LL BE NEXT... WHAT SHALL I DO?
WAIT... AND DO NOT LET ANYBODY IN... WE'LL BE OVER SOON AS WE CAN... WHAT'S THAT, BRUCE?
NO SIR! I'LL LEAVE YOU HERE TO FINISH YOUR WORK... I'M GOING HOME.
CLICK
...MEANWHILE STEVEN CRANE SITS IN HIS LIBRARY WITH A FEELING OF IMPENDING DANGER... WHEN SUDDENLY...
AHHHHH!
...THERE IS A SICKENING SHOT... CRANE SLUMPS IN HIS CHAIR... DEAD! THE MURDERER RUSHES TO THE SAFE AND SECURES A PAPER...
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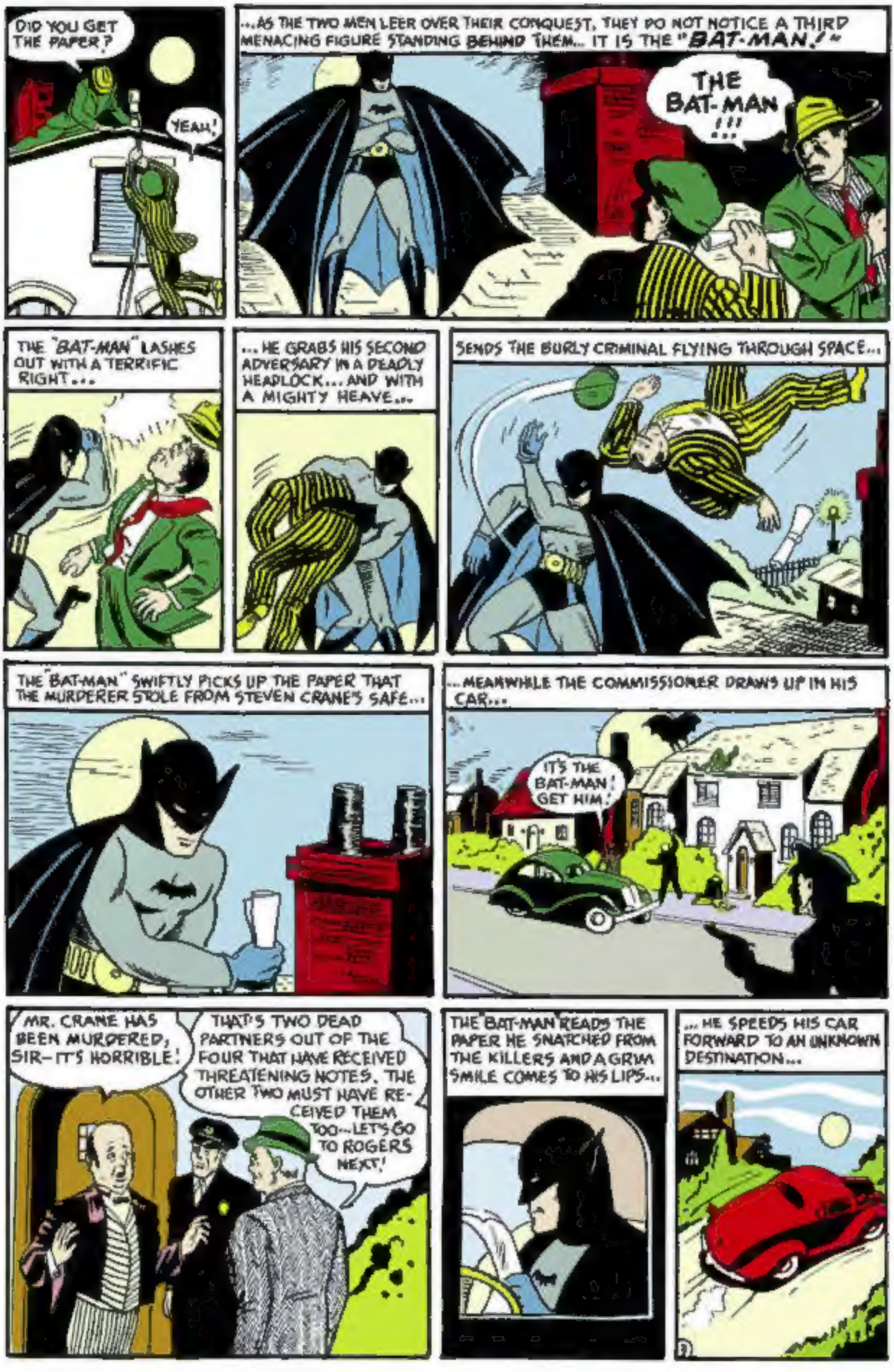

DID YOU GET THE PAPER?
YEAH!
...AS THE TWO MEN LEER OVER THEIR CONQUEST, THEY DO NOT NOTICE A THIRD MENACING FIGURE STANDING BEHIND THEM... IT IS THE "BAT-MAN!"
THE BAT-MAN !!!...
THE "BAT-MAN" LASHES OUT WITH A TERRIFIC RIGHT...
...HE GRABS HIS SECOND ADVERSARY IN A DEADLY HEADLOCK... AND WITH A MIGHTY HEAVE...
SENDS THE BURLY CRIMINAL FLYING THROUGH SPACE...
THE "BAT-MAN" SWIFTLY PICKS UP THE PAPER THAT THE MURDERER STOLE FROM STEVEN CRANE'S SAFE...
...MEANWHILE THE COMMISSIONER DRAWS UP IN HIS CAR...
IT'S THE BAT-MAN! GET HIM!
MR. CRANE HAS BEEN MURDERED, SIR—IT'S HORRIBLE!
THAT'S TWO DEAD PARTNERS OUT OF THE FOUR THAT HAVE RECEIVED THREATENING NOTES. THE OTHER TWO MUST HAVE RECEIVED THEM TOO—LET'S GO TO ROGERS NEXT!
THE BAT-MAN READS THE PAPER HE SNATCHED FROM THE KILLERS AND A GRIM SMILE COMES TO HIS LIPS...
...HE SPEEDS HIS CAR FORWARD TO AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION...

...MEANWHILE ROGERS, WHO HAS LEARNED OF LAMBERT'S DEATH BY NEWS BROADCAST, HAS ALREADY GONE TO THE NEIGHBORING LABORATORY OF HIS ERSTWHILE PARTNER, ALFRED STRYKER...

HELLO, JENNINGS. I MUST SEE STRYKER QUICKLY.

WON'T YOU COME IN?

SOCK!

JENNINGS, STRYKER'S ASSISTANT, CARRIES ROGERS TO THE BASEMENT OF HIS LABORATORY...

HEH! HEH! ONE MORE OUT OF THE WAY--SOON I'LL CONTROL EVERYTHING!

THIS IS THE GAS-CHAMBER I USE TO KILL GUINEA PIGS, TO EXPERIMENT WITH-- BUT NOW **YOU** ARE MY GUINEA PIG! HEH-HEH!! WHEN THIS GLASS LID COVERS YOU ENTIRELY, GAS WILL COME THROUGH THE JET AND KILL YOU (HEH-HEH)!

YOU FIEND!

JENNINGS PULLS A BRAKE WHICH STARTS THE GLASS DOWN OVER ROGERS AND CERTAIN DOOM...

I'M GOING DOWN NOW TO TURN THE GAS ON... SLEEP WELL... HEH-HEH!

...AT THAT MOMENT THE "BAT-MAN" LEAPS THROUGH AN OPEN TRANSOM...

...THE "BAT-MAN" SEIZES A WRENCH FROM A TABLE AND LEAPS FOR THE GAS-CHAMBER...

THE "BAT-MAN" QUICKLY PLUGS THE GAS-JET WITH A HANDKERCHIEF, AS THE GAS CHAMBER DESCENDS ENTIRELY OVER THEM...

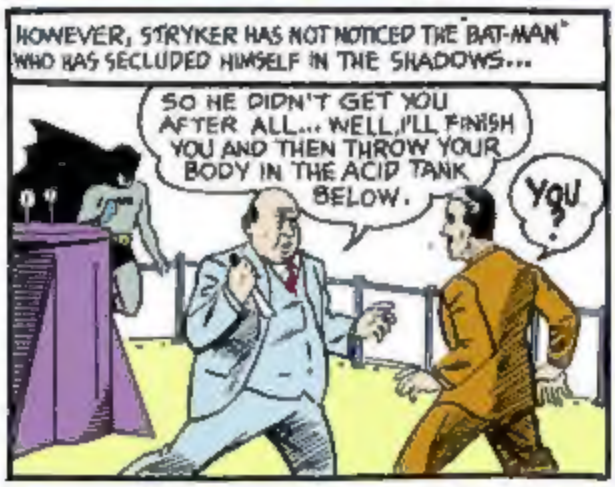
...HE THEN UNTIES ROGERS, AND WITH A POWERFUL SWING...

CRASH

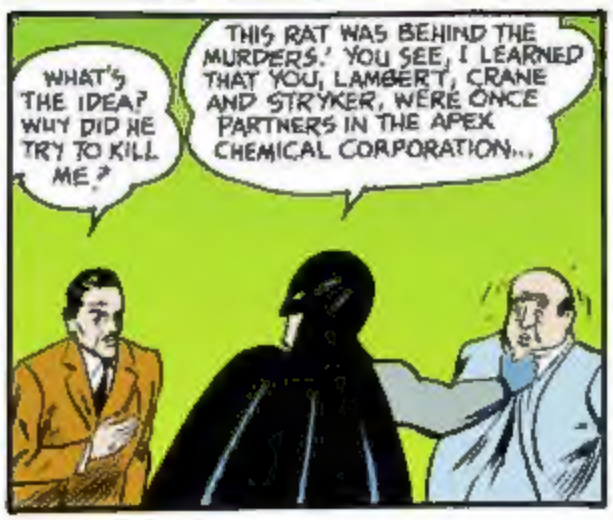
JENNINGS RETURNS AND IS STARTLED BY THE BAT-MAN ... HE REACHES FOR HIS GUN ...
WHAT TH--?

...THE "BAT-MAN" GREETS JENNINGS WITH A FLYING TACKLE...

MEANWHILE, ALFRED STRYKER HAS HEARD THE CRASH OF THE GAS-CHAMBER... AS HE ENTERS THE LABORATORY...
ROGERS? WHAT HAPPENED?
YOUR ASSISTANT, JENNINGS, TRIED TO KILL ME!


HOWEVER, STRYKER HAS NOT NOTICED THE "BAT-MAN" WHO HAS SECLUDED HIMSELF IN THE SHADOWS...
SO HE DIDN'T GET YOU AFTER ALL... WELL, I'LL FINISH YOU AND THEN THROW YOUR BODY IN THE ACID TANK BELOW.
YOU?

OHHH! MY HAND~


WHAT'S THE IDEA? WHY DID HE TRY TO KILL ME?
THIS RAT WAS BEHIND THE MURDERS! YOU SEE, I LEARNED THAT YOU, LAMBERT, CRANE AND STRYKER, WERE ONCE PARTNERS IN THE APEX CHEMICAL CORPORATION...

...STRYKER, WHO WISHED TO BE SOLE OWNER, BUT HAVING NO READY CASH, MADE SECRET CONTRACTS WITH YOU, TO PAY A CERTAIN SUM OF MONEY EACH YEAR UNTIL HE OWNED THE BUSINESS. HE FIGURED BY KILLING YOU AND STEALING THE CONTRACTS, HE WOULDN'T HAVE TO PAY THIS MONEY.
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HMM, A VERY CLEVER SCHEME, AND BEING THE CONTRACTS WERE A STRICT SECRET BETWEEN THE FOUR OF US, OUR HEIRS OR THE OUTSIDE WORLD WOULDN'T KNOW A THING ABOUT THEM... BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW ALL THIS?
I SECURED THIS CONTRACT FROM ONE OF HIS HIRED KILLERS.
...SUDDENLY, STRYKER, WITH THE STRENGTH OF A MADMAN, TEARS HIMSELF FREE FROM THE GRASP OF THE BAT-MAN...
SOCK!
HE'S FALLING RIGHT INTO THE ACID TANK!
A FITTING ENDING FOR HIS KIND.
...HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU... WHY— GONE!
THE NEXT DAY, YOUNG BRUCE WAYNE IS AGAIN A VISITOR AT THE COMMISSIONER'S HOUSE... WHO HAS JUST FINISHED TELLING BRUCE THE LATEST EXPLOITS OF THE "BAT-MAN".
...AND THEN ROGERS SAID THE BAT-MAN WENT THROUGH THE SKYLIGHT.'
HMM! A VERY LOVELY FAIRY-TALE, COMMISSIONER, INDEED.
AFTER BRUCE WAYNE HAS GONE...
...BRUCE WAYNE IS A NICE YOUNG CHAP—BUT HE CERTAINLY MUST LEAD A BORING LIFE... SEEMS DISINTERESTED IN EVERYTHING.
BRUCE WAYNE RETURNS HOME TO HIS ROOM... A LITTLE LATER HIS DOOR SLOWLY OPENS...
...AND REVEALS ITS OCCUPANT... IF THE COMMISSIONER COULD SEE HIS YOUNG FRIEND NOW... HE'D BE AMAZED TO LEARN THAT HE IS THE "BAT-MAN!"
Robt Kane
WATCH FOR A NEW THRILLING "BAT-MAN" STORY
NEXT MONTH!